



The Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

Founded 1914

January 2022 Newsletter

Upcoming Meetings:

February 11: Dave Arland's Annual CES Highlights

March 11: Jason Edwardson, from the Indiana War Memorial, USS Indpls Radio Room

April 8: RF Exposure Testing explained from ARRL

Highlights from the January Meeting:

The meeting was called to order via Zoom at 7:30 pm by club president, David Spoelstra, N9KT. There were 36 in attendance.

There were no new hams, upgrades, or tech questions brought up this evening. David announced that Brent Walls, N9BA, is looking for ham volunteers for the 500 Festival Mini-Marathon. David explained what the radio volunteers do for the Mini, and the benefits of volunteering for the event. Contact Brent at bwalls@arrl.net if you're interested in volunteering or getting more information on the event. David also announced that the club will be participating in Winter Field Day on Jan. 29, from 2:00 to 6:00, at the Salvation Army EDS Facility at 4020 Georgetown Road.

Next David reported that the audit committee, consisting of himself, Jim Rinehart, and Ken Bandy had reviewed the books of the club and found everything to be in order. David then had club Secretary/Treasurer Ken Bandy, KJ9B, give the treasurer report. Ken reported that the club was in good financial shape, with 34 annual members having

paid their dues for 2022 (for reference, we had 67 annual members paid for 2021). Dues for 2022 are payable via PayPal or by check (details later in this newsletter). Ken then gave an overview of the projected expenditures for the club year 2022-2023 (details later in this newsletter).

Next David introduced the evening's presenter, Wayne Michael, AC9HP, to speak about the Parks on the Air (POTA) program. The main Parks on the Air website is at <https://parksontheair.com/>, with spotting and other utilities at <https://pota.app/>. Wayne said that POTA is not a contest, with any band or mode available for use. Wayne noted that there are many awards available (see <https://parksontheair.com/pota-awards/>) for both "Activators" (those who operate from a Park) and "Hunters" (anyone that works an Activator). POTA can be a "low-cost" operation (small QRP radio and wire or other portable antenna), or operators can choose to invest more in their POTA stations, going higher in power and more elaborate antenna systems. Wayne said that pretty much any State or National park in the US is eligible for activation as a POTA site. There are also many POTA sites available outside of the US, as can be found on the POTA website, either by map or entity. In order to be eligible for the awards available, you need to register on the POTA website. Activators need to submit logs after their activations, while hunters don't submit logs. Logs are submitted via email based on the number in your callsign. For example, those of us with "9" calls submit our logs to K9@parksontheair.com. Only ADIF log files are accepted, and the name of the log file has to be in a specific format, as noted in the FAQ file at <https://parksontheair.com/faq/>. Most electronic logging programs can be used (N1MM+ has a POTA user defined configuration file, and N3FJP AC log is mentioned in the FAQ file). It is a good idea to know the grid square and county for your operating position when activating. Keep in mind that some parks actually count as 2 parks for logging purposes. Wayne noted that activators need to be sure to follow the rules of the park in which they are operating, and only operate when the park is open to them. Wayne said that some parks are very specific as to whether stakes can be driven in the ground or anything attached to trees. Wayne next showed some of the radios, antennas, and power sources he has used for activating POTA sites, pointing out advantages and dis-advantages of the different set ups.

The meeting was adjourned to casual conversation at 8:55 pm.

Ham Radio News:

2022 CLUB DUES ARE DUE, AND PAYABLE VIA PAYPAL NOW!

Club Dues are receivable at any time. Individual dues are \$20 per year, or Family dues are \$30 per year (all family members need to live in the same household). Dues can be paid with PayPal at treasurer@indyradioclub.org. Be sure to send the payment as a “friend”, **not for** “goods and services”. This will prevent any fees being assessed to the payment. For those that don’t have a PayPal account, you can send a check made out to “Indianapolis Radio Club” to Ken Bandy, 7405 E. County Road 900 N, Brownsburg, IN 46112.

As of the writing of this newsletter, we have 34 annual members paid through 2022 (for reference, we had 67 annual members paid in 2021). To check your status, point your browser to <https://tinyurl.com/radio-club-members>

As an added incentive for membership in the club, once we start meeting in person, we will have periodic door prize drawings for items such as gift certificates for equipment vendors, and such. Only up to date members present at that meeting will be eligible for these drawings.

PROJECTED EXPENSES FOR CLUB YEAR 2022-2023

- Insurance \$400
- Web Site hosting \$75
- Meeting Space Rental \$500 (Assuming in-person meetings)
- Field Day Donation \$50
- Hamfest \$150
- Sponsorship of VE Testing \$100 (Donation for Salvation Army for facility)
- Zoom account \$150 (Might not be needed if back to in-person meetings)
- Achievement Awards \$100

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM PAYS OFF!

For the fourth quarter of 2021, the club realized a donation of \$56.14 from the Kroger Community Rewards Program. That's with only 11 households participating. Imagine what the club could see if more participated and chose the IRC as their beneficiary.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: KEVIN COLBERT, KD9MNB

Recently elected IRC Board Member, Kevin Colbert, KD9MNB, says, “I have always had an interest in Ham Radio, so upon retiring in 2018, I decided to pursue my interest. I enjoy working DX and have made QSO contacts in Cape town South Africa, Madrid Spain and Sidney Australia. It's exciting meeting other Ham Radio operators and exchanging ideas. I have two identical Radio Shacks, one in Indianapolis and also Angola, IN.

My equipment:

Two ICOM 7300 Transceivers

Two Palstar LA-1K HF Amplifiers

Two Palstar AT2K Antenna Tuners

Antennas are a 43Ft ZeroFive Vertical, NA4RR Hexbeam, and EFHW 8010 End Fed Half Wave.”

In addition to Kevin’s activity on the IRC Board, he is also active on the club’s Volunteer Examiner (VE) team.

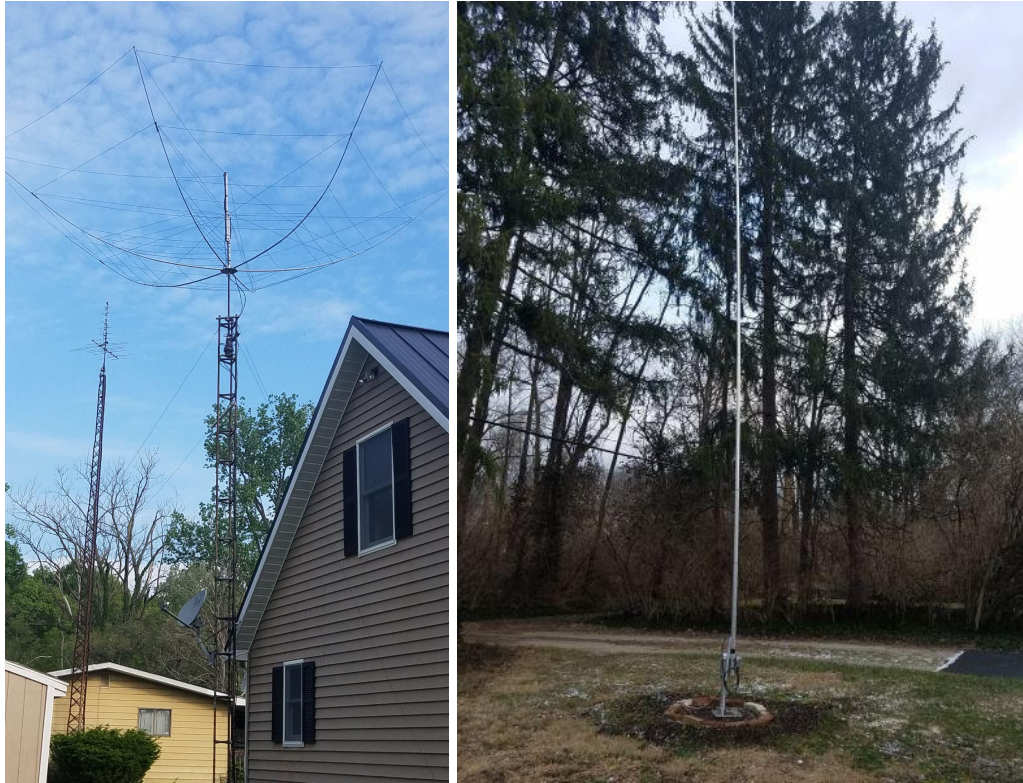
Angola Station:



Indy Station:



Kevin's Antennas:



ANDERSON POWERPOLE CONNECTOR DISCUSSION

Recently, there was a post on the "Work-Sat" groups.io list regarding the popular Anderson Powerpole line of connectors quite often used in our hobby. The post stated that Anderson Powerpoles are not for permanent installations. I think that is a bit of an overly broad statement. A better statement would be that they work best when "exercised" from time to time. Of course, this can be said for any connector that is "self-cleaning". Due to the self-cleaning "wiping" action that Powerpole connectors are subject to when plugging or unplugging them, Anderson suggests in the "Preventative Maintenance" section on page 15 of their product catalog at <https://www.andersonpower.com/content/dam/app/ecommerce/product-pdfs/CAT-PPMP.pdf> that engaging and disengaging them will provide a "self-cleaning" action. They further suggest using a "white" lithium grease on the contacts. I can see where the application of grease would possibly be beneficial on some of the larger connectors that Anderson makes, but for the ones typically in use in our hobby, I think the use of grease would cause a mess in and around the connectors.

This post makes reference to the fact that there are several "knock-off" copies of Anderson Powerpoles available on the market. This is especially true of connectors often found at hamfests.

ON-LINE EXTRA CLASS CLASSES AVAILABLE

Rol Anders, K3RA, is running an Extra Class Licensing course on Zoom beginning Thursday January 20th through Thursday March 31st. The 11 weekly live meetings will start at 2330Z and run for three hours. The course is sponsored by the National Electronics Museum. Send an email to roland.anders@comcast.net for more details.

[Note that the classes are normally recorded, so you can catch up on missed ones. - Ed.]

NEW TECHNICIAN CLASS QUESTION POOL COMING IN JULY

The new pool incorporates some significant changes compared to the 2018 - 2022 pool. 51 new questions were generated, and 62 questions were eliminated. This resulted in a reduction of 11 questions, bringing the total number of questions in the pool from 423 to 412. The difficulty level of the questions is now more balanced, and the techniques and practices addressed have been updated.

The new 2022 - 2026 question pool is effective July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2026, and must be used for Technician-class license exams administered on or after July 1, 2022.

“SHORTS”

- Local Ham Mike Wetzel (W9RE) and Ted Rappaport (N9NB), formerly from Cambridge City, have earned a berth at the World Radiosport Team Championship. Congratulations Mike and Ted!
- The 2022 International DX Convention (formerly Visalia) has been canceled as noted on their website, <http://www.dxconvention.org/>
- W7EL, Roy Lewallen, creator of the very popular EZNEC Antenna Software has retired and the program is no longer for sale. The good news is EZNEC is now free. <https://www.eznec.com>
- The ARRL announced the hiring of Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, into the role of Director of Emergency Management. For more details visit <https://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-welcomes-new-director-of-emergency-management>

- For information on area events needing ham radio assistance, point your browser to <http://www.indyhams.org/events>

UPCOMING CENTRAL INDIANA TESTING SESSIONS (check with sponsor before planning to attend)

Noblesville IN 46060-1624
Sponsor: Central Indiana ARA
Date: Jan 22 2022
Time: 10:30 AM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
Contact: Joseph March
(317) 224-9433
Email: jmarch54@att.net
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Hamilton Cty Emer Operations Ctr
18100 Cumberland Rd
Sheriff's Campus Training Room
CALL AHEAD
Noblesville IN 46060-1624

Bloomington IN 47401-5337
Sponsor: Bloomington ARC Inc
Date: Feb 05 2022
Time: 11:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: William F. Wootton
(812) 876-8689
Email: wfwootton@gmail.com
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: First United Church - Call or email ahead due to COVID-19
2420 E 3rd St
Register at 11:30am
Testing at 12 NOON
Bloomington IN 47401-5337

Indianapolis IN 46218-2169

Sponsor: Indianapolis RC
Date: Feb 12 2022
Time: 12:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
Contact: James K. Rinehart
(317) 721-1458
Email: k9ru@arrl.net
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Salvation Army EDS Training Facility
4020 Georgetown Rd
CALL AHEAD!!!
Indianapolis IN 46218-2169

Columbus IN 47201-7477
Sponsor: SCICSG
Date: Feb 15 2022
Time: 6:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Michael D. Tanksley
(812) 350-5175
Email: kd9eau@gmail.com
VEC: LAUREL VEC
Location: Columbus Twp. Fire & Rescue
935 Repp Dr
Columbus IN 47201-7477

Greenfield IN 46140-9654
Sponsor: Hancock County ARC
Date: Feb 19 2022
Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: David Keiser
(317) 440-8486
Email: kc9urp@hrtc.net
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Hancock EMA EOC
640 South Franklin St
Greenfield IN 46140-9654

FEEL FREE TO SHARE OUR NEWSLETTER

If you belong to any other radio groups, please feel free to share our newsletter with them. They can also sign up to be on our mailing list by filling out the form available at http://mail.indyradioclub.org/mailman/listinfo/ircnews_indyradioclub.org.

SEND ME YOUR HAM RADIO NEWS

If anyone has any items for the newsletter, please send them to Ken Bandy at kj9b@arrl.net

Signals from the Past:

From the January, 1962 *Amachewer*:

RADIO IN RUSSIA

An article in [the] October issue of the CB Digest (Popular Electronics) is headed “You Wouldn’t Want to Be An Electronics Hobbyist in the USSR”.....

An SWL must first pass an apparently rigid test, send and receive 10 WPM and build and repair receivers to receive his SWL call letters.

He is then eligible to take a test for a transmitting license. Minimum age is fourteen years, code at 12 WPM and build a transmitter. Then the First Class License is said to be similar to our Extra Class and at 18 WPM. It, however, carries (as it should) extra privileges.

Upcoming Area Radio Events:

- **Hendricks County HCARS Hamfest: February 12, 2022 8:00 am to 1:00 pm (set up 4:00 pm Friday and 7:00 am Saturday) at the**

Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds Conference Building, 1900 E. Main St., Danville, IN. Contact [John Farmer, N9CQ](#), for more info.

- LaPorte County Amateur Radio Club, Cabin Fever Hamfest: February 26, at the LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St., LaPorte, IN
- Dugger ARC Hamfest: February 26, at the Dugger Community Building, 834 S Hicum St., Dugger, IN
- Wabash Valley ARA Bunny Fest: March 12, at the Clay County 4-H Fairgrounds, 6550 N. St. Rd. 59, Brazil, IN
- Hamvention 2022: May 20 - 22, 2022 at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center. Go to <https://hamvention.org/> for more info.

2022 Officers:

- President: David Spoelstra, N9KT – president@indyradioclub.org
- Vice Pres.: Dave Miller, K9RTT - vp@indyradioclub.org
- Secretary/Treasurer: Ken Bandy, KJ9B - secretary@indyradioclub.org
- Chief Operator: OPEN
- Dir. at large: Jim Rinehart, K9RU – board@indyradioclub.org
- Dir. at large: Kyle Bandy, KC9GLR - board@indyradioclub.org
- Dir. at large: Kevin Colbert, KD9MNB - board@indyradioclub.org
- W9JP Trustee: Jay Kraus, W9TC - w9jp.trustee@indyradioclub.org